

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 IO-03 OMB-01 ACDA-10 DRC-01 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6356

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PARK WARNS MEDIA ON CRITICISM OF YUSHIN

1. PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE OCTOBER 8 SERVED NOTICE THAT CHALLENGES TO 1972 YUSHIN CONSTITUTION WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IN REMARKS TO FIFTEEN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS AND BROADCASTING COMPANY PRESIDENTS, ASSEMBLED AT BLUE HOUSE TO HAND OVER THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO GOVERNMENT-PROMOTED DEFENSE FUND, PARK SAID THAT NATIONAL SOLIDARITY IS ESSENTIAL IN VIEW OF NORTH KOREAN THREAT AND HE CALLED ON PRESS TO TAKE ROLE IN ENSURING SOLIDARITY.

2. PARK SAID THAT "IN VIEW OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SITUATIONS," NO ACTS AGAINST YUSHIN CONSTITUTION COULD BE TOLERATED EXCEPT FOR MOVES FOR AMENDMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF EXISTING CONSTITUTION. HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT ROKG WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY ACTS SUCH AS STREET PROPAGANDA, SIGNATURE-COLLECTING CAMPAIGNS OR "DISTURBANCES" AIMED AT AMENDMENT. IF THE PEOPLE BECOME RESTLESS AND SOCIETY IS DISTURBED, HE SAID, NEITHER THE PRESS, THE GOVERNMENT, NOR THE NATION WOULD BENEFIT, BUT THE COMMUNISTS IN THE NORTH WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.

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3. REGARDING ROLE OF PRESS, PRESIDENT SAID THERE WOULD BE FREEDOM OF PRESS TO MAXIMUM EXTENT UNLESS IT ENDANGERS NATIONAL SECURITY. HE SAID GREATEST FREEDOM OF ALL IS FREEDOM OF SURVIVAL AND THAT TO ENSURE THIS FREEDOM THE MASS MEDIA ARE ASKED TO RESTRAIN THEMSELVES ON LESSER FREEDOMS. PARK ASKED PRESS TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENT IN DETERMINING SCOPE OF REPORTING ON NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

4. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT IN ADDITION TO SELF-RESTRAINT, MEDIA WOULD BE ASKED FOR ACTIVE EFFORTS TO "KEEP THE PEOPLE LOYAL TO GOVERNMENT". HE CALLED ON PRESS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN CREATING COOPERATION AMONG THE PEOPLE AS WELL AS IN ROOTING OUT EVILS OF SOCIETY.

5. TURNING TO INFLUENCE OF U.S. ON KOREA, PARK, USING TERM "FLUNKYISM", SAID THAT OPPOSITION LAWMAKERS WHO SEEK OUTSIDE SUPPORT INCLUDING IN THE U.S.) FOR THEIR OWN MANEUVERS ARE IGNORANT OF KOREAN HISTORY. HE CITED CASE OF YI DYNASTY FACTIONS INVITING FOREIGN FORCES INTO NATION, WHICH WAS ULTIMATELY SEIZED BY A FOREIGN POWER.

6. ROK PRESS MORNING OF OCTOBER 9 RAN PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AS LEAD STORY. ARTICLES WERE BASED ON ACCOUNT OF MEETING BY PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN AND NOT ON ACCOUNTS BY PUBLISHERS THEMSELVES.
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